

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HAVANA, AUG. 21 (AP)-ATTORNEY JAMES B. DONOVAN, WHO ARRANGED THE RELEASE OF U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS FROM RUSSIA, HAS ASKED PERMISSION TO ENTER CUBA TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF MORE THAN 1,000 CUBAN EXILES CAPTURED IN LAST YEAR'S INVASION.

THIS WAS REPORTED TODAY BY RESPONSIBLE SOURCES OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR FREEDOM COMMITTEE. THEY SAID THAT IF DONOVAN GETS AN ENTRY VISA, HE WILL ARRIVE IN HAVANA BEFORE THIS WEEKEND.

THE U.S.-BASED FAMILIES COMMITTEE CABLED PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO SATURDAY REQUESTING THAT DONOVAN BE ALLOWED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CUBAN LEADER IN PERSON. NO ANSWER HAD BEEN RECEIVED, BUT INFORMANTS SHOWED OPTIMISM.

DONOVAN IS THE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE RESCUE ORGANIZATION.

THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEMANDED A \$52 MILLION RANSOM FOR THE PRISONERS, TAKEN IN APRIL OF LAST YEAR. IF THE MONEY IS NOT DEPOSITED IN CANADIAN BANKS, THE CAPTIVES WILL HAVE TO SERVE PRISON TERMS UP TO 30 YEARS.

SO FAR, 66 OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. SIXTY OF THESE, WOUNDED AND AILING, LEFT ON "CREDIT PAROLE." THEY ARE NOW TOURING THE UNITED STATES TO HELP WITH THE FUND RAISING.

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